Handloom weavers of UP working as construction workers and rickshaw pullers

*374. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether approximately four lakh weavers, particularly handloom weavers, have lost their jobs and are working as construction workers and rickshaw pullers from Mubarakpur (Azamgarh), Mau, Amroha, Moradabad and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that lakhs of weavers in these cities are on the verge of committing suicide;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of the suicides committed by weavers during the last three years till 1st July 2009, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of the steps taken during the last three years for welfare of weavers, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. No such statistics have been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding handloom weavers loosing their jobs in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) All State Governments/Union Territory Governments have been addressed in the matter. No such cases have been officially reported by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding handloom weavers committing suicides in Cities at para (a) of the question i.e; Mubarakpur (Azamgarh), Mau, Amroha, Moradabad and Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh. The State Governments which reported suicides committed by handloom weavers during the last three years are only three, which are detailed in the Statement-I *(See* below) alongwith reasons thereof.

(d) The Government of India is committed for the welfare of handloom weavers and introduced following schemes in the XIth Five Year Plan which are comprehensive in nature and cover their interest and are for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers:-

i) **Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme**:

The scheme provides Basic Input, Marketing Input and Skill upgradation support. 35 clusters have been sanctioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Central Assistance of Rs,3.84 crore has been released during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 to benefit 17500 weavers of the Uttar Pradesh State. Under the Group Approach, 76 Projects have been sanctioned and Rs.2.46 crore has been released to the State of Uttar Pradesh for benefiting 1520 weavers.

A Mega Cluster has been sanctioned for Varanasi in the State of Uttar Pradesh under Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme with an outlay of Rs.70.00 crores for overall development of at least 25,000 handloom weavers of Varanasi.

ii) **Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme** :

The Government of India is implementing Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme with the components (i) the Health Insurance Scheme for providing health care facilities to the handlooms weavers in the country and (ii) the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana for providing life insurance cover to the handloom weavers in case of natural/accidental death, total/partial disability due to accident.

(a) Health Insurance Scheme

The Health Insurance Scheme is implemented through the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. The total premium under the scheme for 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been reduced to Rs.781.60/- (including Service Tax) from Rs.1000/- + Service Tax as existed during the 10th plan. During 2007-08, 17.74 lakh weavers were enrolled under the scheme and 18.78 lakh weavers were enrolled during the year 2008-09. As many as, 17.38 lakh number of claims worth Rs.76.30 crore were settled during the year 2007-08 and since 2005-06 claims worth Rs.140.66 crore have been settled under the Health Insurance Scheme.

In the year 2008-09, 3.71 lakh weavers have been enrolled under the scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Claims worth Rs.36.48 crore have been settled in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

The Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is being implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India at an annual Premium of Rs.330/- per annum. The funding pattern under the scheme is as under:-

i)	Weavers share	Rs. 80/- per weaver per annum
ii)	Government of India's share	Rs.150/-per weaver per annum
iii)	LIC's share	Rs.100/- per weaver per annum
	Total	Rs.330/- per weave per annum

The annual premium during the 11th plan has been kept at the level of the X Plan, but the benefits under the Mahaema Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana have been substantially increased as compared to those that existed during the 10 plan, as per the details given below:-

S. No.		Benefits during the 10th plan	Benefits form 1.10.07
(i)	Natural Death	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs.60,000/-
(i)	Accidental Death	Rs. 80,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-
(iii)	Total Disability	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-
(iv)	Partial Disability	Rs 25,000/-	Rs.75,000/-

The scholarship benefits available under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana during the X plan are being continued in the XI plan also. A scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying from IX to XII standard for four years or till they complete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered. During the year 2007-08, 4.66 lakh weavers were enrolled under the scheme whereas during the year 2008-09, 5,76 lakh weavers were enrolled under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana. Claims worth Rs.16.89 crorc (including scholarships) were settled during the year 2007-08 whereas claims worth Rs.26.34 crore (including scholarships) were settled during the year 2008-09.

In the State of Uttar Pradesh, 53075 handloom weavers have been enrolled during the last three years.

iii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

The scheme has two components i.e. Marketing Promotion Programme and Handloom Export Scheme.

(i) To assist & increase the sale of handloom goods in the Domestic market for organizing Handloom Expos, District Level Events and Crafts Melas;

(ii) To provide permanent marketing infrastructural support to handloom agencies in major cities and towns in the form of Urban Haats and Handloom Complexes;

(iii) To give publicity and promote awareness about the handloom sector; and

(iv) To establish a brand Identity for handlooms at the national and international level through Handloom Mark.

During the year 2007-08. Central assistance for marketing activities worth 23.44 crore was given to the States and during the year 2008-09 GOI assistance worth Rs.44.99 crore was given to all the States for holding 399 marketing events. 92 Marketing Events have been organized in the last three years benefiting 84500 handloom weavers in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Handloom Export Promotion Component provides assistance to the handloom cooperative societies & corporations in developing exportable products and to assist handloon agencies in publicity and international marketing.

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

The scheme was introduced during 1992-93 with the objective of providing all types of yarn to the handloom weavers' organizations at the price in which it is available at the place of manufacturing. There is also a provision for supply of yarn to the individual weavers through the yarn depots approved by the NHDC. The expenditure for operating the yarn depot is to be reimbursed by the NHDC @ 2.5% of the value of the yarn The assistance provided under the scheme is as under:-

i) Freight reimbursement for transportation of yarn:

ii) Expenses of operating the yarn depots @ 2.5%, based on actual;

iii) Service Charges to NHDC for its role as nodal agency for the implementation of the MGPS. The scheme is being continued during the XI Plan.

During the year 2007-08, 682.13 lakh Kgs of yarn valued at Rs.567.48 crore was supplied under the Mill Gate Price Scheme. During the year 2008-09, this increased to 855.11 lakh Kgs. worth Rs.793.77 crore distributed from 536 yarn depots throughout the country.

138.48 lakh Kgs. yarn valued at Rs.116.35 crore has been supplied in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Mill Gate Price Scheme during the last three years through 43 yarn depots.

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme envisages giving thrust towards design development with National Centre for Textiles Design, skill up gradation, strengthening of Weavers Service Centres/ Indian institute of Handloom Technology and setting up of new WSCs/IIHTs in Central/State Sector, training, R&D, Conducting Third Census and issue of Identity Cards to Handloom Weavers, J&K Wool Project etc.

Financial assistance released, year-wise and State-wise, is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Suicide committed by the handloom weavers with reasons during last three years in the Handloom Sector

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of weavers committed suicide				Reason
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto13.7.09)	
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	As per reports received from the State Government.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	50	33	48	08	Poverty on account of distress caused by the occupational related problems
3.	Kerala	1	-	4	-	Due to ill health and/ financial problems
4.	Orissa	3	-	1	1	Consumed poison due to family disputes.
	TOTAL	54	33	53	9	

Source: State Government Departments

Statement-II

Details of releases made during 2007-2008, 2008-09 & 2009-10 (upto 26.06.2009) to various States under different Handloom Plan and Non-Plan Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Plan			Non-Plan								
		Integrated Handloom Development Scheme			Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme			Implementation of the HL (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985			10% Special Rebate		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	16.78	6.22	0.22	0.95	1.87		0.72	0.18		5.87	6.27	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	3.21		0.03	0.02					0.05	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	Assam	7.85	3.12	0.06	1.43	2.10	0.15				0.00	6.40	
4	Bihar	0.88	1.04		0.02	0.02					0.00	0.00	
5	Chhattisgarh	0.92	0.61		0.42	0.17					0.20	0.00	
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.49	0.37	0.35				0.00	0.00	
7	Goa	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	
8	Gujarat	1.14	0.75		0.27	0.26			0.56		0.54	0.52	
9	Haryana	0.05	0.00		0.13	0.37		0.28			5.15	0.00	
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.77	0.76		0.17	0.26					0.00	2.20	
11	J&K	0.00	1.43		0.06	0.00					0.00	0.00	
12	Jharkhand	1.69	2.83		0.00	0.04					0.00	0.00	
13	Karnataka	8.76	5.74	0.74	0.70	1.44	0.05				2.48	1.66	
14	Kerala	6.24	6.43	2.30	0.18	0.23					8.30	3.50	
15	Madhya Pradesh	1.46	2.13		0.86	0.12			0.12		0.00	0.00	
16	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00		1.09	1.89					0.23	0.16	
17	Manipur	6.02	2.86		0.10	0.35					0.89	0.00	
18	Meghalaya	0.83	0.55		0.17	0.06					0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
19	Mizoram	0.00	0.00		0.51	0.34					0.00	0.00	
20	Nagaland	1.94	2.43		0.87	2.06	0.34				1.89	2.31	
21	Orissa	3.98	5.70	0.03	1.15	1.07					4.80	7.64	
22	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00					0.00	0.00	
23	Punjab	0.00	0.00		0.05	0.00					0.00	0.04	
24	Rajasthan	0.26	0.54		0.64	0.44			0.29		0.00	7.34	
25	Sikkim	0.00	0.37		0.04	0.03					0.00	0.00	
26	Tamil Nadu	29.77	41.75	7.64	0.62	1.54		0.39	0.24		6.49	5.29	
27	Tripura	1.36	1.28		0.04	0.09					0.20	0.00	
28	Uttar Pradesh	2.36	4.28		1.35	2.36					0.00	7.03	
29	Uttrakhand	0.90	1.57		0.15	0.46					0.00	0.00	
30	West Bengal	4.05	5.01	2.79	0.51	1.06		0.11	0.11		1.91	2.65	
	TOTAL	99.51	100.61	13.94	13.00	19.02	0.89	1.50	1.50		39.00	53.01	
Other Organisations		10.99	8.37		10.44	25.97		0	0		1.00	0.32	
GRAND TOTAL		110.50	108.98		23.44	44.99		1.50	1.50		40.00	53.33	